

REMARKS

With this amendment, claims 10 through 24 remain pending. Claims 1 through 9 and 25 through 28 have been canceled without prejudice to pursue in a later filed continuation, continuation in part, or divisional application. Claim 10 has been amended to include all the limitations of its base independent claim 1 and the intervening claims 2, 3 and 8.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings on the basis that Figure 2C does not include the reference numeral 130 as recited in the Specification at page 7, lines 17-18. In response Applicants have amended the Specification to replace the reference numeral 130 with the reference numeral 100. Applicants have made additional amendments to the paragraph at page 7, line 15 so as to make the Specification consistent with Figure 2C.

In addition, Applicants have amended Figure 2D so as to render Figure 2D consistent with the reference numerals recited in the Specification at the paragraph beginning at line 19 of page 7 of the Specification.

Applicants have included in the Appendix herewith an "Annotated Marked-Up Drawings" page showing changes made to Figures 2C and 2D. Applicants have also included a "Replacement Sheet," which includes Figures 2C and 2D as amended and all the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet.

Applicants submit that the amendments to the drawings correct the informalities identified by the Examiner, and respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn. No new subject matter has been added by these amendments.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 5 and 10 on the basis of various informalities. Applicants have cancelled claim 5 and have amended claim 10 in accordance with the Examiner's suggested amendments. As a consequence, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove these claim objections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claim 10 to include all the limitations of the base independent claims 1 and the intervening claims 2, 3 and 8. As a consequence, Applicants submit claim 10 is now in condition for allowance, and claims 11 and 12 are also in condition for allowance, at least, by virtue of being dependent from allowable claim 10.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 13-24 are allowed. Because only allowable claims remain, Applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance relative to claims 10-24.

Domestic Priority Claim

The Examiner contends that US provisional applications 60/429,252 and 60/412,155 do not provide adequate support under 35 U.S.C. 112 for claims 1-24. The Examiner also states that the present application and provisional application No. 60/429,252 have no common inventors. The Examiner also contends that US provisional application No. 60/400,265 fails to provide adequate support under 35 U.S.C. 112 for claims 10-12 and 19-24 of the instant application.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-9 and 25 through 28 and have amended claim 10 as discussed above; thus only allowable claims remain pending. The Examiner's contentions regarding provisional applications 60/429,252, 60/412,155 and 60/400,265 are, therefore, rendered moot. Applicants would like to make clear that Applicants are neither expressing agreement with the Examiner, nor acquiescing in any way to the Examiner's contentions; to the contrary, Applicants expressly reserve the right, in the event the priority claims of Applicants' application are at issue, to articulate any disagreement with the Examiners contentions at that time.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that no further impediments exist to the allowance of this application and, therefore, solicit an indication of allowability.

However, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if any question or comments arise.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-3117.

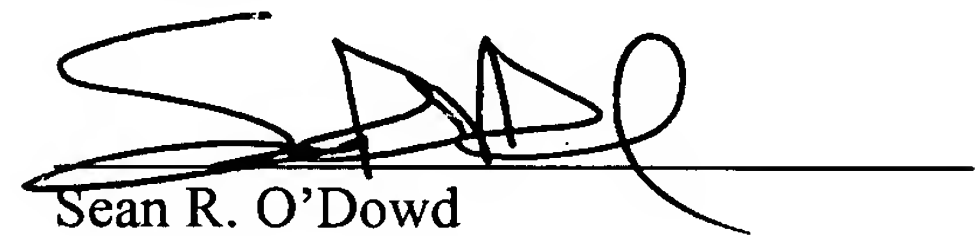
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Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached Replacement Drawing sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 2C and Figure 2D. This sheet, which includes Figures 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D, replaces the original sheet including Figures 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D. The attached Annotated Marked-Up Drawing sheet shows changes made to Figures 2C and 2D.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Marked-Up Drawings

Fig 2C

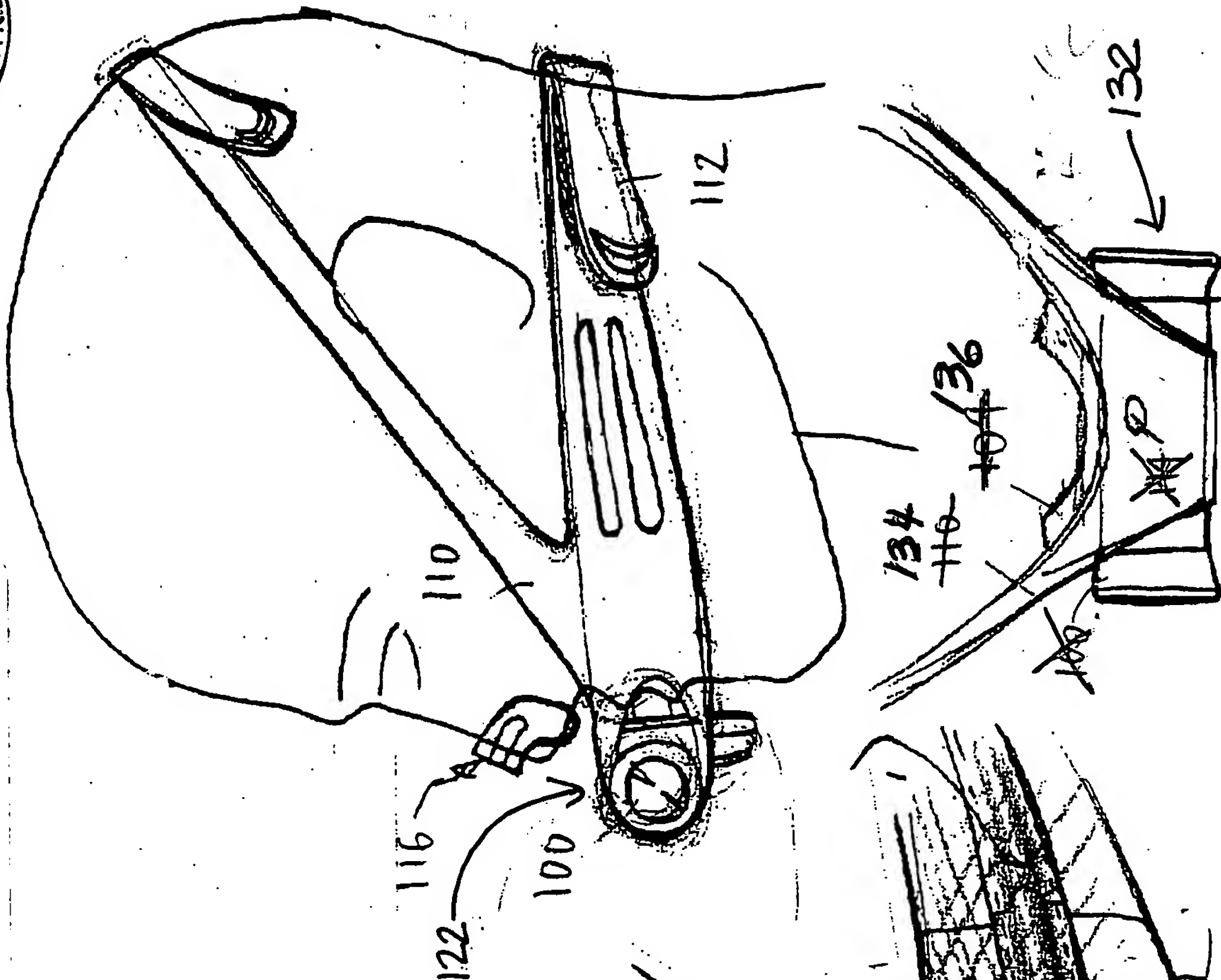


Fig 2D

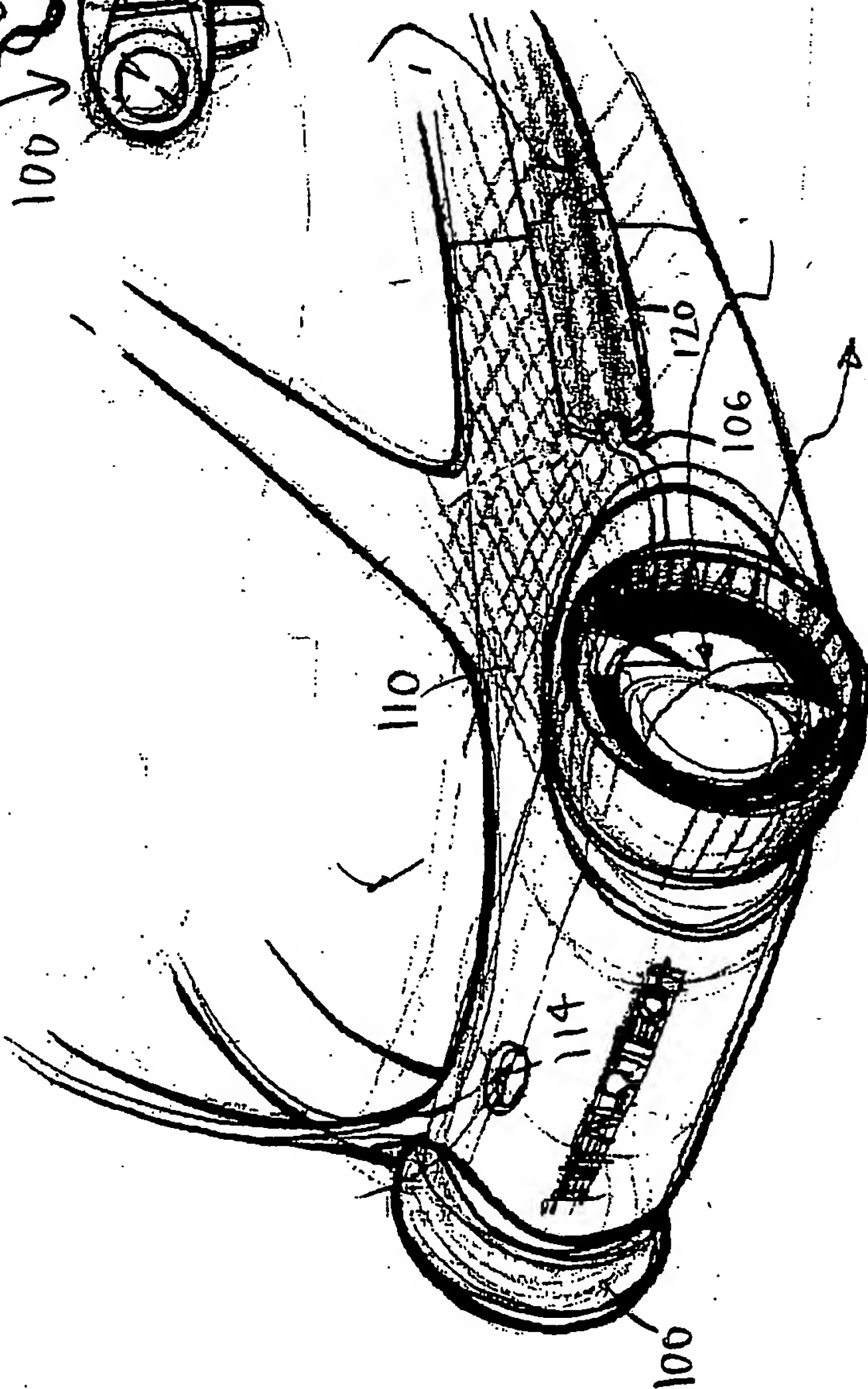
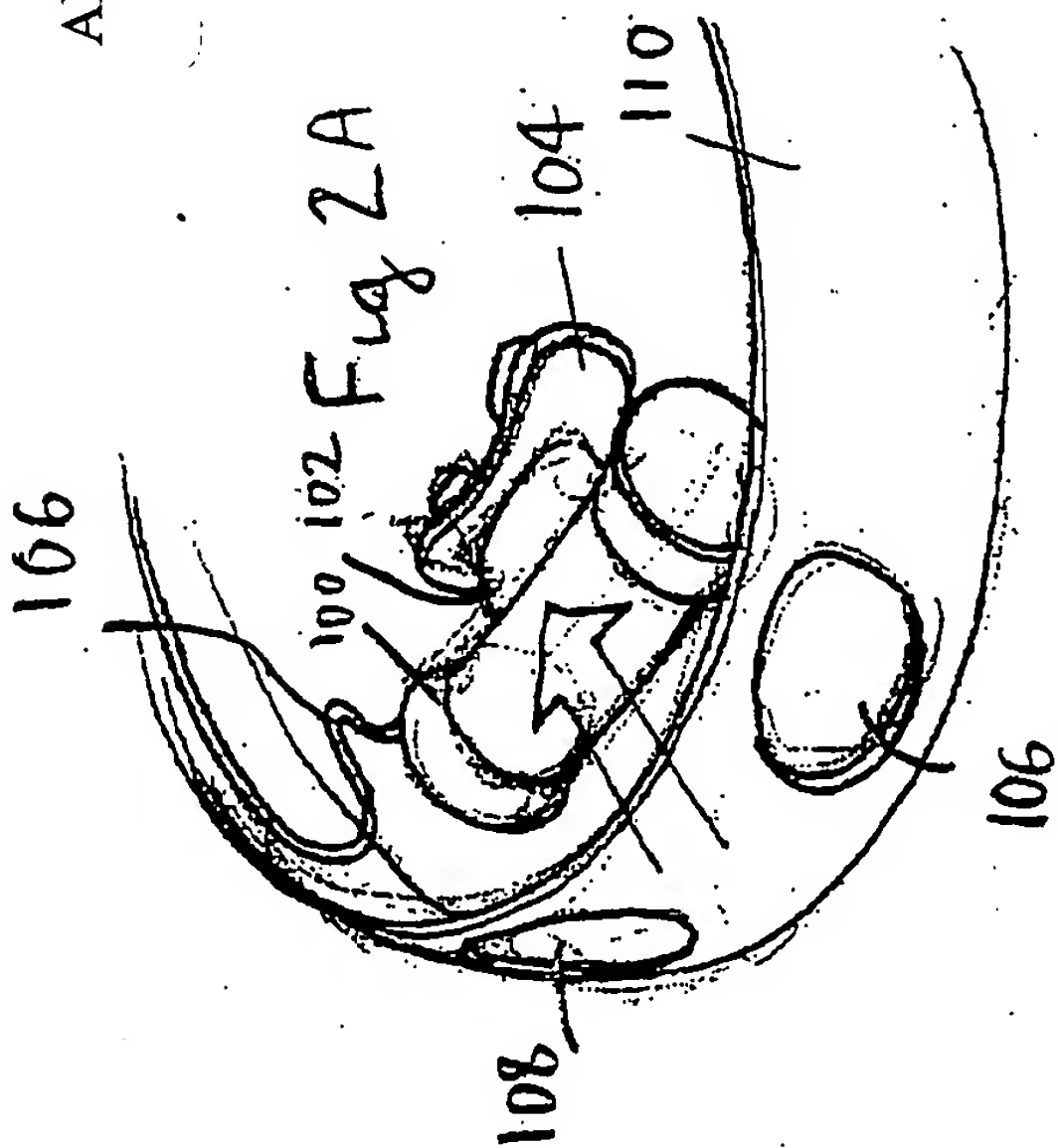


Fig 2B